

# Christian Reflector.

Fear God and give glory to Him.

All Scripture is profitable. God hath made of one

blood all nations of men.

VOL. 4.—No. 13—Whole No. 144.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1841.

CYRUS P. GROSVENOR, Editor.

## Slavery.

For the Christian Reflector.  
Anti-Slavery Songs for the People.  
BY C. W. DENISON.

I.  
Father in Heaven! one more to Thee  
We humbly bow the suppliant knee;  
Once more our songs of praise arise;  
O! may they reach Thee in the skies.

II.

While we are met together here,  
And heave the sigh and shed the tear,  
How wet is many a bondman's eye!  
How the bondmen deep doth sigh!

III.

At 1 P. M., daily,  
3 P. M., or 1 P. M.,  
I, can proceed  
Norwich at 6  
oston or Spring-  
ns,  
, (Sundays ex-  
prester, Spring-  
RATT, Sup't.

ail Road.  
MENT.  
ns will run daily,  
and 4 P. M.,  
l. and 4 P. M.  
ill leave Boston  
o'clock, P. M.,  
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oston 6 A. M.,  
ster at 6 A. M.;  
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Springfield, Nor-  
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B. & W. R.  
FORD, NEW-  
ENT.  
will run daily,  
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ld at 12 P. M.  
7 P. M.  
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7 P. M.  
each Albany, at  
Stockbridge, in  
trive at Auburn,  
A Stage also  
for Albany, via  
ing, that lines  
at West Stock-  
rain on the West-  
Brook to  
ivers, Bel-  
to Sudh  
at 3 P. M.; from  
ld on Tuesdays  
the train from Bos-  
Friday, passengers  
reach Pittsfield,  
York. A Stage  
on the arrival of  
at 5 P. M.,  
d, next morning,  
the steamboat is  
P. M. This is  
ingfield at 8 P. M.  
at Brattleboro'  
the same day.

But here on Freedom's consecrated ground,  
Where, driven by oppression's cruel rod,  
Our much-loved pilgrim fathers planted first  
That beauteous tree, whose wide-spread foliage  
Invites each weary passing traveller  
To sit and rest beneath its cooling shade,  
And taste the nectared sweets of Liberty,  
Unmingled with the nauseous bitter drugs  
That cruel tyrants cast into the cup  
Of human happiness!—

Here,—on these hallowed shores, a race forlorn,  
Despised, degraded, bound with heavy chains,  
Waste all their powers of body, mind and soul,  
In toil, and sweat and grief for other's gain.  
Weep! oh my country, weep and howl for shame,  
And quickly hasten off those cruel bonds  
That gall the necks, and hold in servitude  
The millions of our colored fellow-men.  
Wero are those patriotic fires that burned  
So deep and in bosoms freely bared  
To meet the fierce oppressor's gleaming steel;  
When once our fathers drew the hilted sword  
And fought for life, and home, and Liberty?  
"Live free, or sink beneath the fatal stroke  
Dealt fiercely by the proud oppressors hand,"  
They cried,—"a day, an hour, of Liberty,  
"Whole years of lightest bondage far exceeds."  
The boon of Freedom we so justly claimed,  
And bravely fought to win, now, once secured,  
Shall we withdraw from tawny, captive slaves?  
Can we return when pity pleads with tears,  
And justice loudly speaks with stern rebuke,  
And thunders vengeance, deep, and long and fierce  
Upon the vile oppressor's guilty head?  
Can we refuse to heed the mighty call  
And kindly do what we so late have claimed  
As justly due in our distress and grief,  
For others' wo.

Genius of Liberty awake! arise!  
Break every Tyrant's yoke, the captive free,  
Illumine his darkened mind; his heart improve;  
Dispel the sable gloom that long has hung  
Terrible o'er his frightened soul.  
Permit the light of Truth and Science fair,  
And beams of Love Divine once more to gleam  
Upon the path, where Afric's injured sons  
With cheerful step shall still attempt to tread,  
The blessings of the glorious Gospel day  
In all their rich profusion, gladly pour  
Into their waiting souls, that heaven-born Love  
May bless their after course in human life  
With quiet peace and holy heart-felt joy.

Thus only shall we wipe away the stain  
That so discolors our fair country's face;  
That brings the blush of shame and poignant grief  
Upon our souls, when to our charter, bought so  
dear,  
The motion was unanimously agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1841.

most happy to have entered at some length into the effects of emancipation as they had come under his own observation. As time was so precious, he would content himself with calling upon all the friends of the negro to watch most attentively the laws enacted by the colonial legislature. The laws enacted in Barbadoes were even worse for the negro than those passed by the legislature of Jamaica. He read the following resolutions:—

"That the beneficial results of emancipation in the British colonies, as exhibited in the religious, moral, and social improvement of the laboring population, have far exceeded the most sanguine anticipations of the friends of freedom and humanity. That the increased value of property in these colonies satisfactorily proves the measure to be one of great advantage to the salutary and efficient working out of this great experiment, the progress of colonial legislation must be jealously watched; the withdrawal of a stipendiary magistrate strenuously resisted; and an entire reformation in the administration of justice perseveringly sought.

"That this convention being painfully impressed with the fact, that the enemies of human rights are actively promoting oppressive measures, both in this country and in the colonies, the object of which is, to silence those philanthropists who advocate the cause of the poor, and to consign the emancipated to a new and bitter bondage; "That this convention would particularly refer to the laws recently passed in Jamaica and Barbadoes, and to the persecution of missionaries and others in the former colony; and this convention therefore earnestly implores the friends of the anti-slavery enterprise, and especially the committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, carefully to observe, and to take measures for frustrating, all insidious attempts either to abridge the liberties of the emancipated, or to silence and crush their protectors."

Their adoption was moved by Mr. FINLAY, and seconded by the Rev. A. HARVEY.

The Reverend Mr. MIRAM spoke of the good conduct of the emancipated negroes in British Guiana.

Mr. ALEXANDER drew the attention of the convention to this fact—it was often stated that the production of sugar decreased since the emancipation in our colonies, and this was used as an argument for importation of Hill Coolies. (Hear.) Now the fact was, that before the emancipation the decrease of production had begun—(Hear)—so that it certainly was no argument against free labor. (Hear.)

The Reverend Mr. SEAHORN, from Berbice, bore testimony to the good effects of emancipation there.

Mr. SCOBLE had great pleasure in stating, as the result of the tour he had taken in Guiana, &c., that the negroes had fully borne out the most sanguine expectations as to their conduct under emancipation; that they had become diligent and careful—that they had supported their religious teachers, built their religious edifices, nay, sent large sums over to the aid of religious societies—(cheers)—and as to the pretence of diminished production of sugar, it was just to the extent, and no more, which would result from the deduction of one day from the six, for the negro's cultivation of his own land. The evils of slavery could never be remedied by any mere modification—nothing could remove them but utter extinction. (Hear, hear, hear.) Full, unrestricted liberty must be given to the negro, in order that he might reap the advantage of the blessings conferred on him. He trusted that their friends from various parts of the country would feel the importance of maintaining inviolate the great principle of total and immediate emancipation—that there would be no compromise on this subject, and he hoped that the delegates from France would feel it to be their duty to advocate entire emancipation, without restriction, without money, and without price. (Cheers.) With these remarks he begged to support the resolution.

Mr. BRADBURN also supported the resolution.

In the ship in which he and some of his friends came over to England, there were a few planters from British Guiana, who represented the state of things there as being most horrible. They said, their estates had greatly diminished in value; and one of them stated that last year he had lost on his own plantation, a small one, £1500.

But these gentlemen, from certain statements they made, utterly destroyed their own credibility and he could not, as he told them, believe one word they said—(laughter)—and for this reason, they stated deliberately, and with all the gravity

that John Bull was over known to put on his countenance, that the eloquent gentleman who had last addressed the meeting (Mr. Scoble) was a madman—(laughter)—that his friend Charles Stuart was a fool—(renewed laughter)—and that Daniel O'Connell was a mere political demagogue. (Hear, hear.) Immediately replied, "Now gentlemen, that statement is sufficient to give the lie to all you have told me with regard to emancipation." (Laughter.) But they all admitted the system worked very well for the negro. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HILL moved the adoption of the address.

He had been most anxious to give his humble aid and assistance to the great cause of anti-slavery; it was one to which he had been attached ever since he had been able to frame an idea. He had attended at the first sitting of the convention, but he saw so many men of greater talents and who possessed more knowledge of the question than himself, that he felt convinced it was better for him to remain a silent and attentive listener, rather than take an active interest in the deliberations of the convention. It was from no want of sincere and deep feeling in favor of the cause, but he thought it would be better promoted by allowing other gentlemen to occupy their attention. It was with much pleasure he moved the adoption of the address, and he sincerely trusted it would be productive of much good to the oppressed negro.

Mr. C. E. SMITH seconded the motion,

and the committee appointed to draw up an address to the crowned heads of Europe who were possessors of slaves.

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s elected by the Legislature, without making a choice, in a dwelling house of Mr. A. street, was entered, evening, while Mr. A. was at a lecture, and robust. The Daily Mail of Boston entered the house unbroken, the building once stolen was deposited, up in a larger trunk in the chamber. It were sovereigns, six half Mexican and Spanish rials, taken from the morning in an alley in master's shop, a short distance from their contents. The enter the house, and all down stairs, but supported by the family.

*Boston Transcript.*

in August. Encourage before putting

the boat out on Monday, near the south end of

consumed a hay barn

shop of Mr. Brick, sad-

welling house occu-

the river side, the two dwel-

Brick and Jud-

the two other shops,

company matched to it,

so that it would

not operate with any re-

state of travelling that

of come to our aid, we

have not time to as-

or, to give particular-

*Temp. Gaz.* March 25.

a manager near New

Jersey, which will

reapture the next day,

the people, having

want rifle balls in his

body, none of which did

Carolina has pardoned

under sentence of death

the Criminal will suf-

fer, for which he is

old, daughter of Mr. P.

Cambridge, Vt., now re-

Illinois, was on the

of being left in bed, while

neighbor. Their son,

escaping from a chamber

Mr. H., was consum-

contents, including the

company, and the apparatus

of flagration of Moscow,"

6,000.

100 persons on board

burnt at the mouth

50 are known to have

been a renewal of trou-

men. There has been a

small body of the

is, and a large body of

of Fort Russell. The

through to the fort with

Capt. Barnum with 100

and, and commenced

and the fate of the re-

turn this institution, in the

abuse, who has been ap-

plied to the fort with

the west.

Aug. 25.—Arrived at Prome. We hoped to ob-

tain provisions here for the remainder of our jour-

ney, but were disappointed; we could obtain noth-

ing but a little black sugar, and a few cucumbers.

Prome is a large, ancient city, with many Pagodas

and walls of stone. I

said in a former letter that Prome was the birth place of Mrs. Daniels.

Aug. 25.—Arrived at Pagan. This city was for-

merly the Royal City. Fifty-two kings reigned in

succession here, and though the city is now deso-

late, its ruins exceed in grandeur all powers of des-

cription. You have heard of the pyramids of Egypt, yet there are none so lofty at Pagan as those

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## Trial of the Witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus.

This is a book of a novel and interesting character, published in London, in the year 1820, by the "Society for the promotion of Christian knowledge." It has never been published in this country, and we believe that very few copies are in circulation, if indeed, any. We present it to our readers, with the hope that they will be both profited and interested in its perusal. The authorship is imputed to the elder Lord Littleton.

Woolston, here mentioned, was an infidel writer, who had just been tried and punished for disseminating his doctrines.

We were, not long since, some Gentlemen of the Inns of Court, together, each to the other so well known, that no man's presence was a confinement to any other from speaking his mind on any subject that happened to arise in conversation. The meeting was without design, and the discourse, as in like cases, various. Among other things we fell upon the subject of Woolston's trial and conviction, which had happened some few days before; that led to a debate how the law stands in such cases, what punishment it inflicts; and in general, whether the law ought at all to interfere in controversies of this kind. We were not agreed in these points. One, who maintained the favorable side to Woolston, discovered a great liking and approbation of his discourses against the miracles of Christ, and seemed to think his arguments unanswerable. To which another replied—I wonder that one of your abilities, and bred to the profession of the law, which teaches us to consider the nature of evidence, and its proper weight, can be of that opinion. I am sure you would be unwilling to determine a property of five shillings upon such evidence, as you now think material enough to overthrow the miracles of Christ.

It may easily be imagined that this opened a door to much dispute, and determined the conversation for the remainder of the evening on this subject. The dispute ran through almost all the particulars mentioned in Woolston's pieces; but the thread of it was broken by several digressions, and the pursuit of things which were brought accidentally into the discourse. At length, one of the company said pleasantly, Gentlemen, you do not argue like lawyers: if we were Judge in this case, I would hold you better to the point. The company took the hint, and cried, they should be glad to have the cause re-heard, and him to be the Judge. The Gentlemen who had engaged with mettle and spirit in a dispute which arose accidentally, seemed very unwilling to be drawn into a formal controversy; and, especially, the Gentleman who argued against Woolston, thought the matter grew too serious for him, and excused himself from undertaking a controversy in religion, of all the more momentous; but he was told that the argument should be confined merely to the nature of the evidence, and that might be considered without entering into any such controversy as he would avoid, and to bring the matter within bounds, and in order of view, with the evidence of Christ's Resurrection, and the objections taken to it should be the only subject of conference.

With which persuasion, he suffered himself to be persuaded, and promised to give the company and their new made Judge, a meeting that day fortnight.

The Judge and the rest of the company were for bringing on the cause a week sooner, but the Counsel for Woolston took the matter up, and said, Consider, Sir, the Gentleman is not to argue out of Lytellton, Plowden, or Coke, authors to him well-known; but he has got his authorities from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; and a fortnight is time little enough of all conscience to gain a familiarity with a new argument; and, turning to the Gentleman, he said, I will call upon you before the fortnight is out, to see how reverend an appearance you make before Hammond on the New Testament, a Concordance on one hand, and a folio Bible with references on the other. You shall be welcome, Sir, replied the Gentleman, and, perhaps you may find some company more to your own taste; but I am a Counselor who studies on one side of the question only, and, therefore, I will have your friend Woolston, T—, and C—, to entertain you when you do me the favor of the visit. Upon this we parted in good humor, and all pleased with the appointment made, except the two Gentlemen who were to provide the entertainment.

## The Second Day.

The company met at the time appointed: but it happened in this, as in like cases it often does, that some friends to some of the company, who were not of the party the first day, had got notice of the meeting; and the Gentlemen who were to debate the question, found they had a more numerous audience than they expected or desired. He especially who was to maintain the evidence of the Resurrection, began to excuse the necessity he was under of disappointing their expectation, alleging, that he was not prepared; and he had persisted in excusing himself, but that the strangers who perceived what the case was, offered to withdraw, which the Gentleman would by no means consent to; they insisting to go, he said, he would much rather submit himself to their censure unprepared as he was, than be guilty of such rudeness, as to force them to leave the company. Upon which one of the company, smiling, said, it happens luckily that our number is increased; when we were last together, we appointed a Judge, but we forgot to agree, and now, I think, we are good men and true, sufficient to make one. This thought was pursued in several allusions to legal proceedings, which created some mirth, and had this good effect, that it dispelled the solemn air which the mutual compliments upon the difficulty before mentioned had introduced, and restored the ease and good-humor natural to the conversation of gentlemen.

The Judge perceiving the disposition of the company, thought it a good time to begin, and called out, Gentlemen of the Jury, take your places; and immediately seated himself at the upper end of the table: the company sat round him, and the Judge called upon the Counsel for Woolston to begin.

Mr. A. Counsel for Woolston, addressing himself to the Judge, said,

May it please your Lordship; to give the gentleman on the other side ought, to begin, and lay the evidence which he intends to maintain, before the Court; till that is done, it is no purpose for me to object. I may perhaps object to something which he will not admit to be any part of his evidence, and therefore I apprehend the evidence ought in the first place to be distinctly stated.

Judge. Mr. B. What say you to that?

Mr. B. Counsel on the other side:

My Lord, if the evidence I am to maintain, were to support any new claim, if I were to gain any thing which I am not already possessed of, the Gentleman would be in the right; but the evidence is old, and is matter of record, and I have been long in possession of all that I claim under it. If the Gentleman has any thing to say to dispossess me, let him produce it; otherwise I have no reason to bring my own title to question. And this I take to be the known method of proceeding in such cases: no man is obliged to produce his title to a possession; but he is compelled to do so, when it is called in question.

Mr. B. Sir, the Gentleman mistakes the case: I can never admit myself to be out of possession of my undressing and reason; and since he would put me out of this possession, and compel me to admit things incredible, in virtue of the evidence he maintains, he ought to set forth his claim, or leave the world to be directed by common sense.

Judge. Sir, you say right, upon supposition that the truth of the Christian religion were the point in judgment. In that case it would be necessary to produce the evidence of the Christian religion; but the matter now before the Court is, whether the objections produced by Mr. Woolston, are of weight to overthrow the evidence of Christ's Resurrection.

You say, then, the evidence of the Resurrection is

supposed to be what it is on both sides, and the thing immediately in judgment, is the value of the objections, and therefore they must be set forth. The Court will be bound to take notice of the evidence, which is admitted as a fact on both points.

Go on, Mr. A.

Mr. A. My Lord, I submit to the direction of the Court, I cannot but observe that the Gentleman on the other side, unwilling, as he seems to be, to state his evidence, did not forget to lay in his claim to prescription, which is, perhaps, in truth, though he has too much skill to own it, the very strength of his cause. I do allow that the Gentleman maintains nothing but what his father and grandfather, and his ancestors, beyond time of man's memory, maintained before him; I allow too, that prescription in many cases makes a good title; but it must always be with this condition, that the thing is capable of being prescribed for; and I insist, that prescription cannot run against reason and common sense. Customs may be pleaded by prescription: but if, upon shewing the custom, any thing unreasonable appears in it, the prescription fails; for length of time works nothing towards the establishing any thing that could never have a legal commencement. And if this objection will overthrow all prescriptions for customs, the mischief of which extends perhaps to one poor village only, and affects them in no greater a concern than their right of common upon a rugged mountain, shall it not much more prevail, when the interest of mankind is concerned, and in no less a point than his happiness in this life, and in all his hopes for futurity? Besides, if prescription must be allowed in this case, how will you deal with it in others? What will you say to the ancient Persians, and their fire-altars? Nay, what to the Turks, who have been long enough in possession of their faith to plead?

Mr. B. I beg pardon for interrupting the Gentleman. But it is to save him trouble. He is going into his favorite common-place, and has brought us from Persia to Turkey already; and if he goes on, I know we must follow him round the globe. To save us from this long journey, I will waive all advantage from the antiquity of the Resurrection, and the general reception of the belief of it has found in the world; and am content to consider it as a fact which happened but last year, and was never heard of either by the Gentleman's grandfather, or by mine.

Mr. A. I should not have taken quite so long a journey if the Gentleman imagines, nor indeed, need any man go far from home to find instances to the purpose I was upon. But since this advantage is quitted, I am as willing to spare my pains, as the Gentleman is desirous that I should. And yet I suspect some art even in this concession, fair and candid, as it seems to be. For I am persuaded, that one reason, perhaps the main reason, why men believe this history of Jesus is, that they cannot conceive that any one should attempt, much less succeed, in such an attempt as this, upon the foundation of mere human cunning and policy; and it is worth the while to go round the globe, as the Gentleman expresses himself, to see various instances of the same, in order to remove this prejudice. But I stand corrected, and will go directly to the point now in judgment.

Mr. B. My Lord, the Gentleman in justification of his first argument, has entered upon another of a very different kind. I think he is sensible of it, and seems to yield up one of his popular topics, is indeed artfully getting rid of another; which has made a very good figure in many late writings, but will not bear in any place, where he who maintains it may be asked questions. The mere antiquity of the Resurrection I gave up; for if the evidence was not good at first, it will be good now. The Gentleman is willing, he says, to spare us his history of ancient errors, and intimates, that upon this account he passes over many instances of fraud, that were like in circumstances to the case before us. By no means, Sir, let them be passed over. I would not have the natural strength of his cause betrayed in comparison to it. Nothing can be more material, than to show to this kind, that prevailed universally in the world. Christ Jesus declared himself a prophet, and put the proof of his mission on this— that he should die openly and publicly, and rise again the third day. This surely was the hardest trial in the world to be managed; and it is there no more instances of this kind, or any degree like it, by all means let it be produced.

Mr. A. My Lord, there has hardly been an instance of a false religion in the world, but it has always afforded a like instance to this before us. Have they not all pretended to inspiration? Upon what foot did Pythagoras, Numa, and others set up? Did they not all converse with the gods, and pretend to deliver oracles?

Mr. B. This only shews that revelation is by the common consent of mankind, the very best foundation of religion, and therefore every impostor pretends to it. But is a man's hiding himself in a cave for some years, and then coming out into the world, to be compared to a man's dying and rising to life again? So far from it, that you and I and every man may do the one, but no man can do the other.

Mr. A. Sir, I suppose it will be allowed to be as great a thing to go to heaven and converse with angels, and with God, and to come down to the earth again, as it is to die and rise again. Now this very thing Mahomet pretended to do, and all his disciples believed it. Can you deny this fact?

Mr. B. Deny it, Sir? No. But tell us who went with Mahomet? who were his witnesses? I expect, before we have done, to hear of the guards set over the sepulchre of Christ, and the seal of the stone: what guard watched Mahomet in his going or returning? What seals and credentials had he? Himself pretends to none. His followers pretend to nothing but his own word. We are now to consider the evidence of Christ's Resurrection, and you think to parry it by producing a case, for which no one ever pretended there was any evidence.

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